The Rinehart train avoided any real trouble with the Indians, which its members attributed to the size of their party, but they may have inadvertently brought the wrath of the Sioux tribe down upon a small group of wagons traveling a few miles behind them. When a party of Sioux warriors demanded two cows as payment for crossing their tribe's territory, the Rinehart train refused. James Rinehart described what happened next in his reminiscence:  
The braves looked desperately mad and made signs that they would shoot, but...they went away from the road about a hundred yards and held a council. We moved on and felt much relieved when they were out of sight. When we had travelled about three miles, a messenger came up to us at full speed and asked us to send back help to relieve his train of four wagons and eight men as the Indians had attacked them and shot down some of their loose cattle. ... The time was about three o'clock in the afternoon and as we were near a camping ground where there was water, the order was given to strike camp immediately. Our thirty-one wagons were placed in a half circle for two purposes. First, they served as a protection against possible attacks from the Indians, and, second, it served as an enclosure in which we could guard and hold our cattle at night, when there was great danger of the Indians creating a stampede by a sudden approach in the dark.Immediately on the arrival of the messenger, ten men were detailed to go back and assist the attacked train. ... Our weapons were Colt revolvers and single barrel rifles, all muzzle loaders and many of them flint locks, and Bowie knife. ... Of the relief party, six men started on horseback and four on foot, all anxious to kill Indians.

All were in disorder and confusion. Soon the ten men were strung out in a train half a mile long. When a mile out on the trail two of the footmen lost their enthusiasm and thurst for redman's blood and returned to camp. When about two miles from camp our six horsemen could see out on the broad, level prairie, the ten Indians skinning the cattle they had killed. Three of the train men were detailed to move the wagons along to our camp, and the other five men on horse-back with our six horsemen and the two remaining footmen, now in sight, decided to give those Indians a big scare. They all started in a full run, and the Indians seeing them coming, quit their beef skinning and ran at all speed at right angles to the road, our boys after them. After running about a mile over the level prairie, and when almost in gunshot [range], the Indians disappeared over a bluff. When our boys arrived at the place where the redmen had disappeared, they looked down into a valley and saw a village of about one hundred "tepees" or more. At the same time there seemed to be at least a hundred warriors issuing from their habitations. Dropping their blankets, and with guns and other weapons in hand, they started for the eleven horsemen on the bluff sending forth a deafening "war-whoop" as they went. The scale was now turned. The horsemen retreated at full speed, the Indians pursuing on foot. Our two foot soldiers, when...they saw the horsemen turn tail with at least a hundred Indians in hot chase, they, without even stopping for a council of way to decide upon future plans, also made tracks toward camp. One of the horsemen on passing them took one on his horse and they easily made their escape. But the now lone footman, a boy of nineteen years, was soon over taken and surrounded by Indians. After holding a little "pow-wow" they took the boy's coat, vest, and neck-tie and after relieving his pockets of a little cash and all his ammunition they let him go. In his hurried flight he had dropped his old flint lock gun, but an old Indian, after him in the chase had picked it up and after firing it off, returned it to the lad.